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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

*The Status of Britain's Bid
for Common Market Membership*

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
1 August 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Status of Britain's Bid for
Common Market Membership

Summary

Since Prime Minister Wilson reopened the issue last November, the British have prosecuted with vigor and ingenuity their second bid to join the European Communities (EC). The results so far achieved have left neither the British nor the Five with any illusions about the depth of De Gaulle's objections to Britain's entry. Nevertheless, London has succeeded in getting a hearing from the Six and in formally presenting its brief, both to the Communities' Council and to the Commission.

The Commission is now examining the "consequences" of possible British membership for the Communities, and its report is on the agenda of the first Council meeting--in early October--following the summer hiatus. In short, given France's opposition, the UK application has proceeded about as well as London had any reason to expect, and while the British do not expect to change the French attitude, they hope to keep the issues alive. London's next objective must therefore be an early agreement by the Six to open formal negotiations. By increasingly identifying itself with the political and economic objectives

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of European unity, London has made it difficult for the Five not to go along, but it is far from clear what recourse there may be if De Gaulle chooses to be adamant.

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